

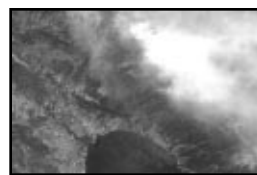


National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas



Second success

JSC's Open House visitors brave weather, praise employees and space program. Photos on Page 3.



High-tech help

High-tech information from NASA aircraft assists California firefighters control wildfires. Story on Page 4.

Space News Roundup

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Station modules pass pressure tests

Node 1, U.S. laboratory module accomplish structural milestone

The first U.S. component of the International Space Station, Node 1, and the U.S. laboratory module successfully completed proof pressure tests last week.

Engineers for NASA's prime space station contractor, Boeing, conducted the proof pressure test on Node 1 at NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Ala., last Wednesday. During the four-hour test, the node was successfully pressurized to 22.8 pounds per square inch gauge, or 1.5 times the normal maximum operating pressure of the International Space Station pressurized elements.

A structural design modification

that has been incorporated into the node substantially reduced the stress levels previously encountered in the radial port low wall gussets.

Node 1, the first U.S.-built space station component, is scheduled to be launched in December 1997. The nodes serve as connecting passageways to other modules on the International Space Station.

With the proof pressure test now completed, Node 1 will be moved out of the test facility and returned to the space station manufacturing building at MSFC, where it will be prepared for assembly and check-out activities that begin in mid-October.

The Sunday before the Node 1 test, the U.S. laboratory module also successfully completed its proof pressure test. Like the Node 1, the lab module was pressurized to 22.8 PSIG, or one and a half times its normal maximum on-orbit operating pressure requirement. Data analysis indicated the module had excellent performance during the pressure test.

Having completed proof pressure tests, the lab's welds now are being inspected. The lab will undergo leak tests in mid-September. It will then be moved back to the space station manufacturing building in late September.

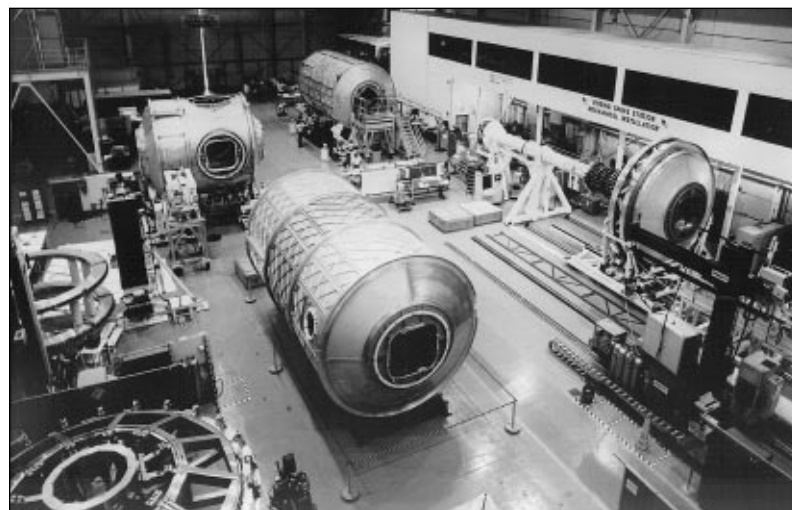


Photo by Boeing Defense & Space Group

The United States modules for the International Space Station sit side-by-side in the Boeing space station manufacturing facility at Marshall Space Flight Center. Clockwise from foreground are the U.S. habitat module, Node 1, the U.S. laboratory module, and the airlock.

Lucid's flight to set record for females

By Natasha Calder

Cosmonaut Researcher Shannon Lucid, aboard the Mir space station, will break the space endurance record for a female tomorrow.

Now in her 23rd week aboard the Russian station, Lucid will mark her 169th day in space Saturday, surpassing Russian Cosmonaut Elena Kondakova's record for the length of time a female has spent in space on a single flight. Kondakova is now at JSC, training for an STS-84 shuttle flight.

Earlier, Lucid said good-bye to Commander Yuri Onufrienko and Flight Engineer Yuri Usachev, who returned to Earth on Monday with French Researcher Claudie Andre-Deshays, leaving Mir 22 Commander Valery Korzun and Flight Engineer Alexander Kaleri in command of Mir.

Lucid will remain on Mir with the Mir 22 crew, awaiting the arrival of *Atlantis*, tentatively scheduled to launch the week of Sept. 16. *Atlantis* will carry Astronaut John Blaha to Mir to relieve Lucid, who has been spending the remainder of her time on the station wrapping up her experiments and packing her bags for her upcoming departure. In addition, Lucid is performing a detailed inventory of U.S. scientific equipment and supplies on Mir in preparation for her handover to Blaha.



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Reply to Attn of: AA

JSC OPEN HOUSE—SUCCESSFUL A SECOND TIME AROUND!

Dear Fellow Employees:

From all accounts the second JSC Open House was even better than the first. Although the weather may have kept some away, more than 20 thousand of our friends and neighbors came out to have a look into the future and to see what we are doing here in our facilities, both onsite and off, to make it happen. Many commented that there was more to see and do, this year, and some even suggested that we make next year's Open House a two-day event!

These kinds of comments are the direct reflection on the hard work and enthusiasm of our dedicated volunteer team. Many of you volunteered long hours, sometimes in uncomfortably hot, humid conditions. Even more of you spent days and weeks planning and coordinating tours, briefings and demonstrations.

In the end, not only did you do an outstanding job of displaying the facilities and capabilities of our Center, you admirably demonstrated our most valuable resource—our people and the “can-do” spirit that has been the hallmark of our program and our great accomplishments and successes in space.

Congratulations. You are all to be commended for a job well done!

George W. S. Abbey
George W. S. Abbey
Director

JSC Director George Abbey issued the above open letter to all employees this week following the successful Aug. 24 open house. Cloud cover and the potential for thunderstorms kept away some visitors who were coming to participate in Space Center Houston's Ballunar Liftoff Festival, but the mostly indoor JSC Open House activities were well attended.

Fran forces Atlantis to seek cover

Kennedy Space Center workers rolled the Space Shuttle *Atlantis* back to the Vehicle Assembly Bldg. early Wednesday as a hedge against potentially damaging wind and rain from Hurricane Fran, which was barreling toward the Eastern seaboard.

As a result, the planned Sept. 14 launch of STS-79 will be delayed, tentatively until the week of Sept. 16. The length of the delay will depend on the timing of the hurricane's landfall and dissipation. *Atlantis* was safely inside the VAB by 11 a.m. CDT Wednesday. Mission managers had given the order earlier in the week to make nearly all preparations for rollback.

Landfall of Hurricane Fran was expected Thursday or Friday, somewhere between Florida and the Carolinas.

STS-79 Commander Bill Readdy, Pilot Terry Wilcutt, and Mission Specialists Jay Apt, Tom Akers, Carl Walz, and John Blaha are ready to begin their mission that will see a fourth docking of the shuttle with the Russian Mir Space Station. Blaha is scheduled to replace U.S. Astronaut Shannon Lucid aboard Mir to begin a four-and-a-half-month tour of duty. During the mission, *Atlantis'* astronauts, together with their Mir counterparts, will focus on microgravity and life science experiments on the first flight of the Spacehab double module. The large science module will provide more room for experiments and supplies for the Mir-22 crew.

Meanwhile, preparations for the next shuttle launch, that of *Columbia* about Oct. 31, continued on schedule. The STS-80 crew will spend 16 days in orbit to deploy and retrieve the ORFEUS-SPAS astronomy satellite and fly for a third time the Wake Shield Facility.

Mechanical work on *Discovery* continued in anticipation of February's second Hubble Space Telescope servicing mission.



Rewards target safety awareness

As JSC prepares itself for another full-day shutdown for safety—the 1996 Safety and Total Health Day—several new employee recognition items are being made available to JSC supervisors, facility managers and organization safety committees.

The award items, including golf caps, six-pack coolers, pocket tape measures, koozies and key chain lights, have been purchased by the Human Resources Awards Office and are being distributed to organizations this month.

The items are intended for presentation to employees demonstrating personal ownership to ensure the center maintains a safe work place. Examples of this might be identifying a safety issue and following through to eliminate the issue, taking time to remove safety hazards in the office or shop area, or consistently using the proper tools with the

proper personal protection equipment in daily work activities. Administrative officers will be provided with a small supply of awards and award flyers. Employees will be able to choose from the available items by completing and returning a tear-off slip.

The Awards Office is encouraging employee feedback on the pilot program so that it may be evaluated for continuation past the end of the supply of the initial items.

Employees with suggestions may submit them to Helen Harris via e-mail at hharris@gp301.jsc.nasa.gov

This year's Safety and Total Health Day will be Oct. 23, and each JSC organization will be putting together a program designed to emphasize the importance of safety and health in the JSC workplace and help employees internalize the safety ethic year-round.



The award items, including golf caps, six-pack coolers, pocket tape measures, koozies and key chain lights, can be used to recognize employee participation.

Survey seeks candid responses throughout NASA

Many JSC employees began receiving NASA's 1996 agency-wide Employee and Customer Satisfaction Survey this week, and NASA Headquarters is asking that all completed surveys be returned by Sept. 10.

This survey, similar to the one conducted in 1995, will provide for randomly selected agency employees, at all levels of the organization, to make known their collective views on many topics of importance within NASA.

The results will be used to promote fuller and more complete com-

Please see **SURVEY**, Page 4